

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF WEST VIRGINIA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

v.

Crim. Action No.: 1:20CR74-5
(Judge KleeH)

JEFFREY HOWARD,

Defendant.

ORDER ADOPTING MAGISTRATE JUDGE'S REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION
CONCERNING PLEA OF GUILTY IN FELONY CASE [DKT. NO. 950],
ACCEPTING GUILTY PLEA, AND SCHEDULING SENTENCING HEARING

On December 15, 2021, the Defendant, Jeffrey Howard ("Howard"), appeared before United States Magistrate Judge Michael J. Aloï and moved for permission to enter a plea of **GUILTY** to Count Five (5) of the Indictment, charging him with Possession with Intent to Distribute Methamphetamine, in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841(a)(1) and 841(b)(1)(C). Howard stated that he understood that the magistrate judge is not a United States District Judge, and Howard consented to pleading before the magistrate judge. This Court referred Howard's plea of guilty to the magistrate judge for the purpose of administering the allocution, pursuant to Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 11, making a finding as to whether the plea was knowingly and voluntarily entered, and recommending to this Court whether the plea should be accepted.

USA v. HOWARD

1:20CR74

**ORDER ADOPTING MAGISTRATE JUDGE'S REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION
CONCERNING PLEA OF GUILTY IN FELONY CASE [DKT. NO. 950],
ACCEPTING GUILTY PLEA, AND SCHEDULING SENTENCING HEARING**

Based upon Howard's statements during the plea hearing, and the Government's proffer establishing that an independent factual basis for the plea existed, the magistrate judge found that Howard was competent to enter a plea, that the plea was freely and voluntarily given, that Howard was aware of the nature of the charges against him and the consequences of his plea, and that a factual basis existed for the tendered plea. The magistrate judge issued a *Report and Recommendation Concerning Plea of Guilty in Felony Case* ("R&R") [Dkt. No. 950] finding a factual basis for the plea and recommending that this Court accept Howard's plea of guilty to Count Five of the Indictment.

The magistrate judge **remanded** Defendant to the custody of the United States Marshals Service.

The magistrate judge also directed the parties to file any written objections to the R&R within fourteen (14) days after service of the R&R. He further advised that failure to file objections would result in a waiver of the right to appeal from a judgment of this Court based on the R&R. Neither Howard nor the Government filed objections to the R&R.

Accordingly, this Court **ADOPTS** the magistrate judge's R&R [Dkt. No. 950], provisionally **ACCEPTS** Howard's guilty plea, and

USA v. HOWARD

1:20CR74

ORDER ADOPTING MAGISTRATE JUDGE'S REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION
CONCERNING PLEA OF GUILTY IN FELONY CASE [DKT. NO. 950],
ACCEPTING GUILTY PLEA, AND SCHEDULING SENTENCING HEARING

ADJUDGES him **GUILTY** of the crime charged in Count Five of the Indictment.

Pursuant to Fed. R. Crim. P. 11(c) (3) and U.S.S.G. § 6B1.1(c), the Court **DEFERS** acceptance of the proposed plea until it has received and reviewed the presentence investigation report prepared in this matter.

Pursuant to U.S.S.G. § 6A1 et seq., the Court **ORDERS** the following:

1. The Probation Officer shall undertake a presentence investigation of Howard, and prepare a presentence investigation report for the Court;

2. The Government and Howard shall each provide their narrative descriptions of the offense to the Probation Officer by **January 14, 2022;**

3. The presentence investigation report shall be disclosed to Howard, his counsel, and the Government on or before **February 28, 2022;** however, the Probation Officer shall not disclose any sentencing recommendations made pursuant to Fed. R. Crim. P. 32(e) (3);

4. Counsel may file written objections to the presentence investigation report on or before **March 14, 2022;**

USA v. HOWARD

1:20CR74

ORDER ADOPTING MAGISTRATE JUDGE'S REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION
CONCERNING PLEA OF GUILTY IN FELONY CASE [DKT. NO. 950],
ACCEPTING GUILTY PLEA, AND SCHEDULING SENTENCING HEARING

5. The Office of Probation shall submit the presentence investigation report with addendum to the Court on or before **March 28, 2022**; and

6. Counsel may file any written sentencing memorandum or statements and motions for departure from the Sentencing Guidelines, including the factual basis for the same, on or before **April 19, 2022**.

The Court further **ORDERS** that prior to sentencing, counsel for Defendant review with him the revised Standard Probation and Supervised Release Conditions adopted by this Court on November 29, 2016, pursuant to the standing order entered by Chief Judge Groh, In Re: Revised Standard Probation and Supervised Release Conditions, 3:16-MC-56.

The pretrial conference on March 4, 2022, and the jury trial on March 22, 2022, are **CONTINUED** generally for this defendant.

The Court will conduct the **Sentencing Hearing** for Howard on **May 6, 2022**, at **2:30 p.m.**, at the **Clarksburg, West Virginia** point of holding court. If counsel anticipates having multiple witnesses or an otherwise lengthy sentencing hearing, please notify the Judge's chamber staff so that an adequate amount of time can be scheduled.

USA v. HOWARD

1:20CR74

ORDER ADOPTING MAGISTRATE JUDGE'S REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION
CONCERNING PLEA OF GUILTY IN FELONY CASE [DKT. NO. 950],
ACCEPTING GUILTY PLEA, AND SCHEDULING SENTENCING HEARING

It is so **ORDERED**.

The Clerk is directed to transmit copies of this Order to
counsel of record and all appropriate agencies.

DATED: January 11, 2022

/s/ Thomas S. Kleeh
THOMAS S. KLEEH
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE